

**Remarks**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the indication in the Office Action that claims 5-18 contain allowable subject matter.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended solely to expedite allowance of the application. Instant claim 1 incorporates the features of the invention previously recited in claims 4 and 5. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-9 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 1-3 and 6-24 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the Office Action indicates that claims 5-18 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, and 19-24 are also allowable, since all of claims 2, 3, and 19-24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of now pending claims 1-3 and 6-24 are allowable.

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<sup>1</sup> Contrary to Office Action page 4, Applicants note that no rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are present in the Office Action.

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In view of the foregoing, this application is deemed to  
be in condition for immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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